Appointment of safai karamcharis in banks

2744. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the nationalized banks are making fresh appointments of full-time sweepers, instead of promoting their part-time sweepers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; the number of part-time sweepers and the reasons for not promoting part-time sweepers; and

(c) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to regularize part-time sweepers as full-time permanent employees in nationalized banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Pension fund from disinvestment proceeds

2745: SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has mooted the creation of a permanent fund for pension from part of the disinvestment proceeds; and

(b) what other steps are proposed in the matter of pension?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995, framed under the provisions of the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, is already applicable to factories and establishments specified under Schedule I of the said Act, employing 20 or more persons. This scheme is constantly monitored and fine-tuned for better implementation.

Pursuant to the Government's announcement in the Budget 2001-02, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has submitted a report, which, *inter-alia*, provides a blue print for implementing pension reforms in the unorganised sector. The Government has initiated a review of this IRDA report through a Group of Ministers.

In so far as the Government servants are concerned, the Government has already envisaged in the Budget 2001-02 a new pension scheme, based on defined contribution for new entrants. Pursuant to this announcement, a High Level Expert Group was constituted to provide a road map for introducing new pension system for new recruits entering Government. The Expert Group has submitted its report to the Government.

Sick co-operative banks in Andhra Pradesh

2746. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an expert group constituted to enquire into the working of co-operative banks in Andhra Pradesh has identified 41 banks as loss makings; and

(b) if so, whether Reserve Bank of India has taken steps to safeguard the interests of depositors of these banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The Expert Committee on Urban Cooperative Banks appointed by the Government of Andhra Pradesh has mentioned in its report that 41 banks in the State are loss making. However, the Committee has listed names of only 39 banks in this regard.

(b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken various steps such as issue of direction under section 35(A) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (As Applicable to Co-operative Societies), issue of operational instructions, issue of showcause notice for cancellation of license, etc. in respect of 16 banks to safeguard the interest of the depositors. The position of the remaining 23 banks is also being